

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GOTEBO 00172 080819Z
ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS GOTEBO 0172

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SW, UR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SWEDISH KING TO USSR FOCUSES ATTENTION OF
SOVIET TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS

REF: GOTEBO 0164

1. LOCAL INTEREST IN TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION APPEARS TO HAVE INCREASED APPRECIABLY IN RECENT WEEKS. IN ADDITION TO AMPLE PRESS PUBLICITY GIVEN TO CASES OF LUDMILLA AGAPOVA AND IRINA MCCLELLAN (REFTEL), TREATMENT OF OTHER DISSIDENTS IS BEING BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF PUBLIC PRESS AND SUCH ORGANIZATIONS AS THE GOTEBO ACTION COMMITTEE FOR SOVIET JEWS. THIS WEEK'S VISIT TO SOVIET UNION OF SWEDISH KING CARL XVI GUSTAF AND FOREIGN MINISTER SODER HAS ALSO STIMULATED PUBLIC INTEREST IN QUESTION.

2. ON JUNE 6, APPROXIMATELY 400 PERSONS DEMONSTRATED OUTSIDE SOVIET CONSULATE GENERAL IN GOTEBO, PROTESTING IMPRISONMENT OF THE SOVIET JEWISH DISSIDENT, ANATOLY SHARANSKY. LEADING THE PROTEST WAS SHARANSKY'S WIFE, AVITAL, WHO IS REPORTEDLY VISITING SWEDEN TO PARTICIPATE IN DEMONSTRATIONS SUPPORTING HER HUSBAND. CENTER PARTY M.P. RUNE TORWALD, WHO HAS RECENTLY

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BECOME PROMINENT IN WEST COAST PROTEST MOVEMENT IN BEHALF OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS, READ A RESOLUTION DEMANDING THAT SHARANSKY BE SET FREE, AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION OBSERVE THE HELSINKI DECLARATION PROVISIONS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. TODAY'S ISSUE OF GOTEBO-POSTEN, SWEDEN'S SECOND LARGEST MORNING NEWSPAPER, FEATURED FRONT PAGE INTERVIEW BY PAPER'S

CHIEF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT WITH NOBEL PRIZE WINNER ANDREI SAKHAROV, CALLING ON SWEDISH KING TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF "HELSINKI GROUP" DURING THIS WEEK'S VISIT. ACCORDING TO SAKHAROV, "OPPRESSION AGAINST HELSINKI GROUP HAS INCREASED SINCE THE BELGRADE MEETING ENDED IN MARCH", ADDING THAT SOME 20 MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HAVE NOW BEEN IMPRISONED. (SAKHAROV LISTS BY NAME SIX MEMBERS OF HELSINKI GROUP WHO ARE CURRENTLY IMPRISONED.) SAKHAROV URGES THAT THE SWEDISH ROYAL VISIT BE UTILIZED TO EMPHASIZE TO THE SOVIETS THAT EFFORTS TO RELAX INTERNATIONAL TENSION CAN NOT SUCCEED "AS LONG AS THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO VIOLATE FUNDAMENTAL PARTS OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT BY REFUSING TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS." SUCH INTERCESSION BY THE SWEDES, SAKHAROV INSISTS, COULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS, SINCE IT IS AN "INTERNATIONAL ISSUE RELATING TO THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT."
OWENS

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